

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Applicants submit that the cancellation of claims 8-15 renders moot all rejections of those claims. Therefore, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejections of claims 8-15.

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Wood et al, in view of Klasa et al and further in view of De Bont et al. Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection for the reasons that follow.

Wood et al is relied upon as disclosing that the present compounds have antiangiogenic properties based on their ability to inhibit VEGFR. Klasa et al is relied upon as teaching that monocytes of AML secrete VEGF and display VEGF receptors. De Bont et al is relied upon as teaching that AML cells of juveniles also secrete VEGF and display VEGF receptors.

Although Wood et al disclose PTK787, its activity as an inhibitor of VEGFR, and its antiangiogenic properties, it is not alleged to suggest that PTK787 would be useful for treating AML.

Klasa et al speculates that compounds having antiangiogenic activity may have utility in hematologic malignancies because many hematologic malignancies express angiogenic factors such as VEGF and VEGFR, and because the angiogenic factors can have prognostic value with respect to the disease. However, Klasa et al does not contain data which provides one of skill in the art with a reasonable expectation that the antiangiogenic drugs would actually be useful for treating AML or that PTK787 would be more likely to succeed than the numerous other drugs discussed. Such disclosure does not provide one of skill in the art with sufficient information to reasonably expect that PTK787 would successfully treat AML; it merely speculates that antiangiogenic drugs may be useful in the treatment of AML based on certain characteristics of the disease. At best, Klasa et al is an invitation to experiment with antiangiogenic drugs for treating hematologic malignancies.

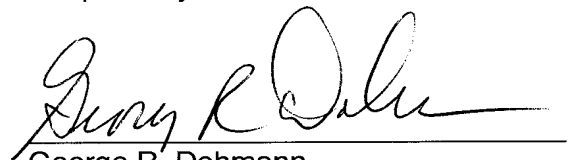
De Bont et al discloses that VEGF is an independent prognostic factor in juvenile AML patients. Like Klasa et al, it does not provide any data which would lead one of skill to reasonably expect that PTK787 would successfully treat AML.

Neither the primary reference nor the secondary references provide disclosure that would lead one of skill in the art to reasonably expect that PTK787 would successfully treat AML. Therefore, the presently claimed invention is patentable over the combined disclosure of the references. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC 103.

Entry of this amendment and reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Novartis
Corporate Intellectual Property
One Health Plaza
East Hanover, NJ 07936-1080
(862) 778-7824

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George R. Dohmann", written over a horizontal line.

George R. Dohmann
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 33,593

Date: February 5, 2008